

Senate Bill 113

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Kirk of the 13th, Albers of the 56th, Stone of the 23rd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to require  
3 nursing homes and personal care homes with a minimum number of residents to have backup  
4 power sources in the event of power outages; to provide for requirements for uninterrupted  
5 services; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide for related  
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation and  
10 construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, is amended in Article 2, relating to  
11 the Georgia Building Authority, by redesignating Code Section 31-7-22 as Code  
12 Section 31-7-23 and by adding a new Code section to the end of Article 1, relating to  
13 regulation of hospitals and related institutions, to read as follows:

14 "31-7-22.

15 (a) On and after March 31, 2020, each nursing home and each personal care home with  
16 eight or more residents in this state shall have and maintain a backup power source to  
17 provide power in the event of a power outage. Such backup power source shall be capable  
18 of providing sufficient power for a duration specified by the department to provide  
19 uninterrupted delivery of medical care through medical equipment and apparatus; to  
20 provide lighting in all patient rooms, common areas, exits, stairs, and corridors; to maintain  
21 critical safety systems such as telephones, fire detection, and suppression systems; to  
22 operate HVAC systems to maintain safe temperatures for the protection of patients; to  
23 operate refrigeration units for safe handling of food and medications; to prevent doors from  
24 automatically locking during a power outage impeding entrance into the facility by  
25 emergency personnel and family members; and to support all other essential services for

26 patients. Each facility shall establish and implement a routine maintenance plan to ensure  
27 the operation of the backup power source in the event of a power outage.  
28 (b) The department shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement  
29 the provisions of this Code section."

30 SECTION 2.

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.